

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 25, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following remarks and have canceled claims. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 1-19 and 21-28 were pending in this Application. By this Amendment, claims 21, 23 and 25 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-19, 22, 24 and 26-28 are now pending in this Application. Claims 1, 5, 15 and 19 are independent claims.

Allowed Claims

Claims 19 and 27-28 have been allowed.

Claims 21-26 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-4 and 21-22

Claim 21 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim (i.e., claim 1) but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewrite claim 21 to include all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 21 and then canceled claim 21. Accordingly, claim 1 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 2-4 and 22 depend from claim 1, claims 2-4 and 22 are now in allowable condition as well.

Claims 5-14 and 23-24

Claim 23 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim (i.e., claim 5) but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather

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than rewrite claim 23 to include all of the limitations of claim 5, Applicants have rewritten claim 5 to include all of the limitations of claim 23 and then canceled claim 23. Accordingly, claim 5 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 6-14 and 24 depend from claim 5, claims 6-14 and 24 are now in allowable condition as well.

#### Claims 15-18 and 25-26

Claim 25 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim (i.e., claim 15) but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Rather than rewrite claim 25 to include all of the limitations of claim 15, Applicants have rewritten claim 15 to include all of the limitations of claim 25 and then canceled claim 25. Accordingly, claim 15 is now in allowable condition.

Because claims 16-18 and 26 depend from claim 15, claims 16-18 and 26 are now in allowable condition as well.

#### Conclusion


In view of the foregoing remarks, this Application should be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the Application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-3661.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (508) 616-2900, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: 1004-048

Dated: June 23, 2006